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NIO 1124-77

19 May 1977

	MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence	
	VIA : Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence	
25X1	FROM : Executive Officer, National Intelligence Staff	
<i>f</i> .	SUBJECT : Response to Frank Barnett Letter	
	1. Action Required: Your signature.	
\$	 The drafting of the response to Mr. Barnett involved two NIOs and got a low priority, with the result that we are tardy in getting this response to you for your signature. 	
25X1	3. The attached response, which was drafted by defends our methodologies and analytical techniques, while at the same time it recognizes that they, too, can be further improved.	25X1
	4. A critique of the W. T. Lee pamphlet is Tab.	
		25X1
	Attachment SR M 77-10066 (5 May 77)	
		25X1
•	This document may be downgraded to UNCLASSIFIED	
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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director

: Response to Frank Barnett Letter SUBJECT

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Executive Registry

NIO #1124-77 11 May 1977

	MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
	VIA : Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
25X1	FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Economics
	SUBJECT : Response to Frank Barnett letter
	1. Action Required: Your signature.
	2. Somehow this correspondence got lost "on the way to the Forum". It hit my desk on 6 May. Attached is my proposed reply.
	3. Barnett's letter seems deliberately provocative, as indicated by his rhetorical question in the first paragraph. I felt that, while we have misgivings of our own about the concepts and analytic techniques involved, the letter deserved a fairly forceful answer.
	4. A critique of the W. T. Lee pamphlet is attached at Tab.
	Attachment: SR M 77-10066 (5 May 1977) CONFIDENTIAL Distribution: Orig - Addressee w/att. 1 - DDCI w/att. 1 - DDI w/att. 1 - D/OSR w/o att. 1 - NIO/E w/att. 1 - R w/o att. (ER 77-993)
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ES,

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Per our records the orig letter fm Mr. Barnett
was sent to NIO on 9 Apr 77 with a suspense date of
16 Apr.

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25 March 1977

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Admiral Stansfield Turner Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC.

Dear Stan:

It is now clear that Soviet military spending has been twice as large as it was thought to be by most U.S. government agencies. How is it possible that intelligence estimates were understated by a factor of 100 percent?

The answers are offered in the enclosed pamphlet by a brilliant analyst, W.T. Lee. (Mr. Lee's piece will appear later as a Chapter in our forthcoming book on the comparative defense budgets of the superpowers.)

As former Undersecretary of State Eugene Rostow points out in his Foreword:

"...the Soviet Union is embarked upon a program of indefinite political expansion, based on military forces which are growing more rapidly than our own... intended to achieve visible and complete superiority in every category... Yet the intelligence community has steadfastly resisted what was obvious to nearly everybody else."

Mr. Lee's analysis of why the intelligence estimates went wrong has a critical bearing on the current debate on U.S. defense needs and Soviet capabilities.

With best regards, I am

Frank R. Barnett

Faithfully.

Enc. (1)



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AGENDA

UNDERSTANDING THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT

How CIA Estimates
Went Astray

With a Foreword by Eugene V. Rostow

William T. Lee

National Strategy Information Center, Inc. 111 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

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25 March 1977

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Mr. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr. Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC.

Dear Ben:

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With best regards, I am

Frank R. Barnett

Faithfully,

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UNDERSTANDING THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT

How CIA Estimates Went Astray

With a Foreword by Eugene V. Rostow

William T. Lee

National Strategy Information Center, Inc. 111 East 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

17-365/A

7 MAR 1977

Dear Frank,

I very much appreciated your kind letter on the occasion of my appointment as Director of Central Intelligence.

I agree that the national defense is a pressing priority and I welcome the challenge that my new position will provide.

Again, your best wishes and congratulations were greatly appreciated.

Yours,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER Admiral, U.S. Navy

Mr. Frank R. Barnett National Strategy Information Center, Inc. 111 East 58th Street New York, New York 10022

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February 25, 1977

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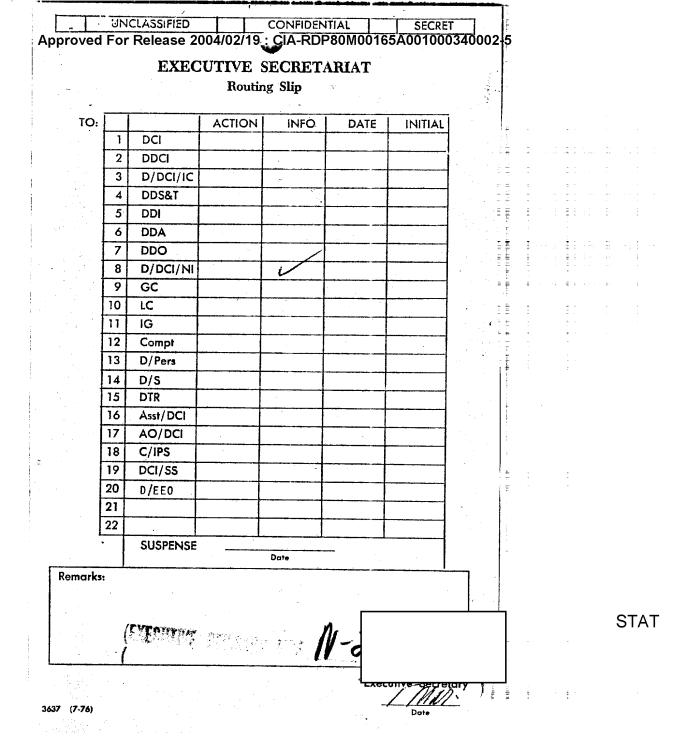
Dear Stan:

Those of us who believe that National Defense is our most pressing priority take substantial encouragement from your recent and much deserved advancement in responsibility for the country's security.

With sincerest congratulations and all best wishes, I am

Faithfully

Frank R. Barnett



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Executive Registry

7 January 1977

Mr. Benjamin C. Evans, Jr. Central Intelligence Agency Washington, DC. 20505

Dear Ben:

In the post-Mao era, one of the crucial questions that bears directly on our own security is: "Can Russia avoid a 'twofront' strategy by repairing her quarrels with China?"

A noted expert on China, Dr. Harold Hinton, addresses that topic in the enclosed book.

He details the history of the Sino-Soviet dispute and offers alternate scenarios for the future. The Moscow-Peking struggle, of course, is placed in the context of the relations of the two Communist Powers to the United States and our vital interests.

With best regards, I am

Faithfully.

Frank R. Barnett

FRB:srt

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MASHINGTON ASSOCIATE

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Chairman of the Board

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